

History and Modernization of Case Surveillance

Historical Timeline

Collection of national notifiable disease data has long been essential to quality public health decision making. Here is a history of major milestones in the advancement of case surveillance.

2014

CDC launches the NNDSS National Modernization Initiative (NMI) as part of the [CDC Surveillance Strategy](#). Through this multi-year initiative, CDC increased the robustness of the NNDSS technological infrastructure with interoperable, standardized data and exchange mechanisms.

1997

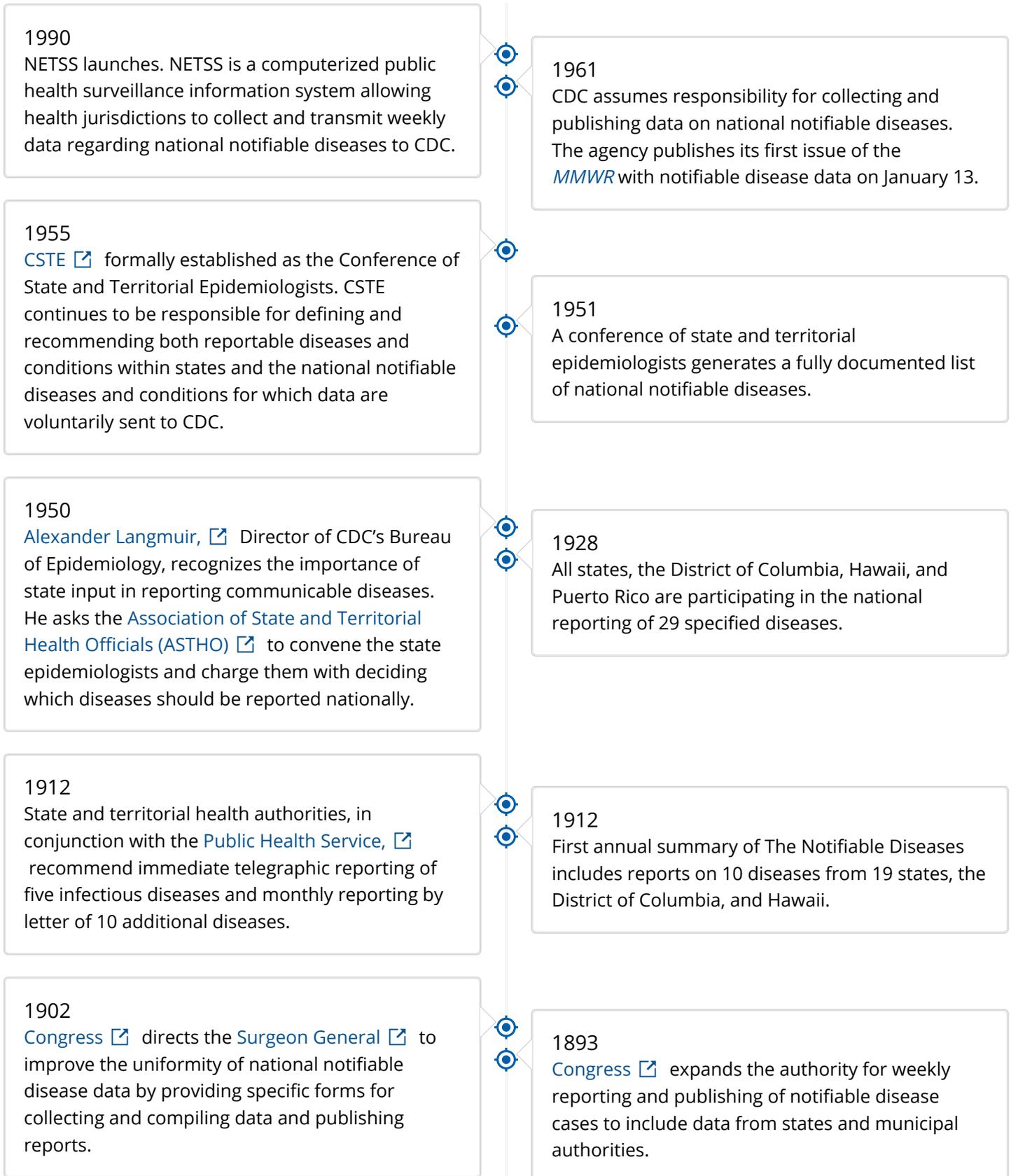
CDC publishes an updated [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#) on uniform criteria for reporting cases, entitled [Case Definitions for Infectious Conditions Under Public Health Surveillance \(MMWR 1997;46 \[No. RR-10\]\)](#). These case definitions were developed in collaboration with epidemiologists at CDC and [CSTE](#). They were approved by a full vote of the CSTE membership and also endorsed for use by the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Laboratory Directors, now the Association of Public Health Laboratories ([APHL](#)).

2007

[Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists \(CSTE\)](#) approves a position statement that supports implementation of [International Health Regulations](#) in the U.S. This international legal instrument governs information sharing about events that might constitute a [Public Health Emergency of International Concern](#).

1990

In collaboration with [CSTE](#), CDC publishes an [MMWR](#) entitled [Case Definitions for Public Health Surveillance \(MMWR 1990;39 \[No. RR-13\]\)](#). It provides uniform criteria for reporting cases. These case definitions were developed in collaboration with epidemiologists at CDC and [CSTE](#). They were approved by a full vote of the CSTE membership and also endorsed for use by the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Laboratory Directors, now [APHL](#).



1879

Congressional appropriation funds collecting data and publishing reports on notifiable diseases.



1878

[Congress](#)  authorizes the U.S. Marine Hospital Service, the forerunner of the [Public Health Service](#),  to collect reports from U.S. consuls overseas about local occurrences of [cholera](#), [smallpox](#), [plague](#), [yellow fever](#) and other disease. The information was used to institute quarantine measures to prevent introducing or spreading disease in the U.S.

Page last reviewed: April 16, 2021

Content source: [Division of Health Informatics and Surveillance](#)